

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 DODE-00 MMS-03 EB-11

COME-00 OMB-01 CG-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 NSC-10 SPC-03 SAM-01 SS-20 DRC-01 NEA-11 /115 W

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R 141100Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4381

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVERU

CINCLANT

AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

S E C R E T PORT LOUIS 0110

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR IO MP

SUBJECT: SUPPORT OF US NAVAL PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN AREA

REF: STATE 28352

1. FOLLOWING ARE COUNTRY TEAM ESTIMATES ON GENERAL LEVEL OF BELIEVED MAURITIAN ACCEPTABILITY TO POSSIBLE FUTURE REQUESTS FOR US NAVAL SUPPORT. REPLIES ARE KEYED TO SUBHEADINGS PARA 2 REFTEL.
(A) ALTHOUGH GOM HAD NO SUBSTANTIVE COMMENTS TO OFFER ON BEING APPRISED OF DIEGO GARCIA EXPANSION (PORT LOUIS 0083), THIS DEVELOPMENT IS NONETHELESS OF CONCERN TO MAURITIUS. HOWEVER, DO NOT BELIEVE THAT UNDER PRESENT RPT PRESENT GOVERNMENT OF PRIMIN RAMGOOLAM, GOM WOULD BE ANY LESS RECEPTIVE TO US NAVY PORT VISITS THAN HERETOFORE. IT WILL BE NOTED THAT GOVERNMENT HAS NEVER REJECTED ANY REQUEST FOR NAVY VISIT EVEN WHEN IT MAY HAVE BEEN INCONVENIENT IN TERMS OF BUNKERING AVAILABILITY OR DOCK SPACE. GOM WOULD CERTAINLY NOT WISH TO BE OVERLOADED WITH PORT VISITS BUT COULD PROBABLY

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SUSTAIN FREQUENCIES AVERAGING ABOUT 3 PER YEAR.

(B) GOM AT PRESENT AUTHORIZES OCCASIONAL LANDINGS OF WEATHER RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT (PORT LOUIS 0761 AUG 2, 1973) AND HAS BEEN HOSPITABLE IN PAST IN AUTHORIZING OVERFLIGHTS AND LANDINGS MILITARY AIRCRAFT. BELIEVE IT WOULD CERTAINLY BE SYMPATHETIC TO LANDINGS AIRCRAFT ENGAGED IN MED-EVACS OR OTHER EMERGENCY PURPOSES. ONE ITEM ON WHICH GOM MIGHT BE MORE CAUTIOUS, BECAUSE OF SENSITIVITIES OVER INDIAN OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE ISSUE, WOULD BE RELATIVE TO LANDINGS OF CARRIER AIRCRAFT.

(C) CORRESPONDING TO ITS RECEPTIVITY ON PORT VISITS, GOM WOULD LIKELY GRANT SHORE LEAVES AT FREQUENCIES AND DURATIONS AS DESIRED BY VISITING VESSELS. NUMBERS OF PERSONNEL WOULD BE LIMITED ESSENTIALLY BY THIS SMALL ISLAND'S ABILITY ABSORB LARGE NUMBERS SHORE LEAVE PERSONNEL. US NAVY PERSONNEL WHO HAVE TAKEN SHORE LEAVE IN MAURITIUS HAVE DONE SO OUT OF UNIFORM. BELIEVE GOM FINDS THIS PREFERABLE.

(D) EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE BI-LATERAL ARRANGEMENTS NEEDED; IN FACT, WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE DESIRED BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

(E) YES

(F) NO PROBLEMS AT ALL ENVISAGED, ASSUMING AVAILABILITY OF PERTINENT SERVICES AND COMMODITIES.

(G) WITH REFERENCE TO ITEM (A) ABOVE, ALTHOUGH ACTUAL MAURITIAN REACTION TO US INDIAN OCEAN PRESENCE AND DIEGO GARCIA EXPANSION STILL MUTED, ANTIPATHY TOWARD GREAT POWER COMPETITION IN AREA IS VERLY LIKELY A LATENT FACTOR WHICH COULD BEAR ON FUTURE GOM ATTITUDES TOWARD SUCH PORT VISITS, AND WHICH USG SHOULD KEEP IN MIND.

(H) GOM POSSESSES NO NAVAL FORCE; THUS SPECIFIC ACTIONS WHICH MIGHT BE UNDERTAKEN BY US NAVY AUTHORITIES WOULD HAVE NO IMPACT. NOTE: WE UNDERSTAND THAT IN PRESENTING THEIR CASE FOR CONTINUED/ INCREASED GOM SUGAR QUOTA UNDER US SUGAR ACT, LOBBYISTS FOR MAURITIUS HAVE MADE POINT OF THIS COUNTRY'S CONTINUING RECEPTIVITY TO VISITS US NAVAL VESSELS.

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